

She eventually became the first African-American woman from Albany to serve in the Georgia House of Representatives (1981–1992), and in 1992 became one of the first African-American women to run for Congress in Georgia's Second Congressional District.

In July of 2009, a play about Mary's life entitled "Cotton Field Girl" was performed at the Albany Civil Rights Institute in Albany. This play chronicled Mary's humble beginnings and her propensity for hard work and determination as instilled in her by her parents.

Shirley Chisholm once said that "service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Mary Young-Cummings, in the same spirit as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Fannie Lou Hamer, fought for what was right, even if she had to stand alone. Our country and our world are better because Mary Young-Cummings walked among us with pride and dignity and served humanity so well.

RECOGNIZING THE 19TH ANNUAL
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
BANQUET FOR THE OCCOQUAN
WOODBRIDGE LORTON VOLUNTEER
FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 19th Annual Installation of Officers Banquet for the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department.

The 2010 officers and members of the board of directors are taking leadership roles in one of Northern Virginia's longest standing volunteer fire departments. The O.W.L. Volunteer Fire Department was borne out of the need for organized fire response capabilities in the growing suburbs of Northern Virginia. In 1938, the Department officially formed to become the only fire department between Fredericksburg and Alexandria. In the subsequent decades O.W.L. has expanded to staff three stations and provide emergency medical services.

The members of O.W.L. are dedicated community volunteers, and the 2010 officers and directors will be diligent stewards of this tradition of service. The 250 active O.W.L. members answer 14,000 calls and serve 60,000 people each year. Their job is demanding and the hours are long, but they gladly serve for little more than the satisfaction of volunteerism and civic engagement. We would all do well to follow their example.

2010 Officers: President Debra Haight, Chief James McAllister, Assistant Chief Mike Clark, Assistant Chief Wayne Haight, Assistant Chief Jack McGovern, Assistant Chief Karl Fippenger, Assistant Chief David Halman, Rescue Chief Edward Craig, Captain Stewart Young, Captain John Roberts, Captain Richard Slusher, Captain Justin Witt, Captain Richard Moore, Captain Steve Godin, Captain Reece Fancher, Lieutenant Jonathan Baldwin, Lieutenant Kurt Bolland, Lieutenant Mark Chandler, Lieutenant Matthew Haight, Lieutenant Ben New, Lieutenant Rick Ruggieri, Lieutenant Dave Williams, Lieutenant Ryan Williams, Lieutenant Tammy Hill, Lieutenant

Flavia Kelly, Lieutenant Kelly Shaw, Lieutenant Teddie Steele, Sergeant Joshua Culp, Sergeant Ernie Firkin, Sergeant Harold Griffith, Sergeant Rob Laver, Sergeant Nate Peterson, Sergeant Adam Wynn, Executive Vice President Mike McCranie, Treasurer George Nazionale, Membership Secretary Heather Carroll, Sergeant At Arms John Karnback, Elections Officer Susan Mitchem

Board of Directors: Chris McIntosh, Lenny Peters, Ralph Bowman, Thomas Sullivan, Kevin Lewis, William Spicer, Ron Miller

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these remarkable volunteers on their new positions. The Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department is to be commended for the vital service it provides to the Prince William community.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
CURTIS M. BEDKE

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major General Curtis M. Bedke, for his outstanding service to our nation on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

It is an honor to join the people of Ohio's 7th Congressional District in congratulating Major General Bedke upon his retirement as Commander of the Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

A 1977 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, he has served a distinguished career, piloting 78 aircraft in more than 4,300 flights. As Commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory, he led more than 10,000 employees and was responsible for managing the Air Force's science and technology program.

Previously, General Bedke was Commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center at the Edwards Air Force Base in California. He also served in Operation Enduring Freedom as the Combined Forces Air Component Commander in Egypt in 2001 and as the U.S. Central Command's senior military representative to Pakistan in 2002.

For his many years of service to our nation, I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending our best wishes upon his retirement and wish him ongoing success in all future endeavors.

HONORING ANDREW JAMES
SWOBODA FOR HIS SUCCESS IN
THE SIEMENS COMPETITION IN
MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a local high school student, Andrew James Swoboda of Alexandria, Va., for his work alongside his California teammate in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology.

Participating in this competition on Monday, December 7, 2009, his team's original research on Optimization of Platinum Nanoparticles for Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells Using Pulse Electrochemical Deposition earned them a shared scholarship of \$10,000. Celebrating academic achievement and encouraging our country's students to pursue math and science excellence, this decade-old competition, hosted by the Siemens Foundation, awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships this year to our nation's most promising high school students. Andrew is certainly that—a fine example of promise and talent, from whom we can be sure to expect great things in the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Andrew and his teammate for this recognition and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING LOOKMAN
MUHAMMED

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lookman Muhammed, a student from Lawrence Hall Youth Services, for winning City Clerk Miguel del Valle's annual city sticker design contest. On December 15th, 2009, Lookman Muhammed won the 15th annual high school art contest.

This year's contest theme was "Burnham's Chicago," encouraging students to study the work of architect Daniel Burnham. More than 300 students from grades 9–12, and 39 Chicago high schools entered the art contest. After a panel of honorary judges narrowed the entries down to the top 10 designs, the public voted online and at City Hall computer kiosks. Nearly 17,500 votes were cast by the public to choose this year's winner.

Muhammed's artwork will be seen on 1.3 million vehicle stickers beginning in June 2010. He also receives a \$1,000 savings bond to help with his continuing education. In addition, Muhammed, along with all the finalists, will receive an honorary resolution at a January awards ceremony with City Clerk Miguel del Valle in City Hall.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lookman Muhammed for winning City Clerk Miguel del Valle's 15th annual city sticker design contest, and thank him for participating in the contest and contributing to the City of Chicago.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRINCIPAL PATRICIA S. PHILLIPS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patricia S. Phillips and to express my gratitude for her years of selfless dedication in the field of education.

Principal Phillips believes in the public school system and the power of education.